

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 15, 18, 21 and 28 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 15 can be found at least in claim 21. Claims 18, 21 and 28 are amended for form. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration, as the amendments simply move an allowable feature from a dependent claim into independent claims; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-7, 9, 11-14 and 16-28 recite allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicants move an allowable feature from claim 21 into independent claims 1 and 15. Thus, all claims should be allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 8, 10 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Takimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,182,365). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Takimoto does not teach every claimed feature of independent claims 1 and 15. For example, Takimoto does not teach "wherein one end portion of the airbag support is free," as recited in independent claims 1 and 15.

The Office Action asserts that the adjusting cloth 69 of Takimoto corresponds to the claimed airbag support of independent claims 1 and 15 (see pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action). However, the adjusting cloth 69 of Takimoto does not have a free end portion. Rather, Figs. 17 and 18 of Takimoto merely show the adjusting cloth 69, with no free ends, attached to an airbag 66 in such a manner as to bend the airbag 66 upward upon deployment

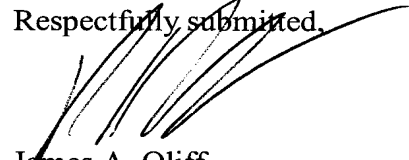
of the airbag 66. Therefore, Takimoto does not teach the features of independent claims 1 and 15.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 15 are patentable over Takimoto. Claims 8 and 10 depend from independent claim 1, and are patentable for at least their dependency on independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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